

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 209872
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/AFN:TSWILKINSON:LLC
APPROVED BY NEA:HHAUNDERS
NEA/AFN:AMB ANDERSON
NSC:WQUANDT
S/S-O:TMARTIN

-----011709 180147Z /70

P R 180114Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T STATE 209872

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MO SS XF MASS

SUBJECT:MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR BENGELLOUN'S MEETING WITH
ASSISTANT SECRETARY SAUNDERS, AUGUST 17

REF: RABAT 4873

1. BENGELLOUN, WHO RETURNS TO MOROCCO FOR MONTH'S VACATION
STARTING AUGUST 20, CALLED ON SAUNDERS AND AMBASSADOR
ANDERSON TO ASK ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR CAMP DAVID MEETINGS,
DATES FOR KING HASSAN'S VISIT, AND U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE
AS FOLLOW-UP TO SAUNDERS' MEETING WITH KING HASSAN ON
JULY 21. BENGELLOUN ALSO MENTIONED IMPORTANT ENERGY
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AGREEMENTS SIGNED BY THE KING WITH OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM
PRESIDENT ARMAND HAMMER ON AUGUST 15, BUT NOTABLY DID NOT
RAISE QUESTION OF U.S. ASSISTANCE FOR AIRLIFT OF ADDITIONAL
TROOPS TO ZAIRE (REFTEL).

2. CAMP DAVID MEETINGS - SAUNDERS EXPLAINED BACKGROUND OF
PRESIDENT'S INVITATIONS TO BEGIN AND SADAT. BENGELLOUN

RECALLED THAT KING HASSAN HAD FAVORED CONVENING AN ARAB SUMMIT TO PROMOTE PROGRESS. SAUNDERS REPLIED, AS HE HAD SAID TO KING, THAT AN ARAB SUMMIT WOULD SEEM TO US MORE

DESIRABLE IF THERE WERE POSITIVE RESULTS FROM THE CAMP DAVID MEETINGS THAT WOULD ALLOW ARAB CHIEFS OF STATE TO RALLY AROUND SADAT. A SUMMIT TAKING PLACE IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF STALEMATE COULD PROVE TO BE A REPETITION OF THE 1967 KHARTOUM MEETING; NEGATIVE DECISIONS THEN TOOK SIX TO TEN YEARS TO OVERCOME. ON THE REACTIONS OF CONGRESS, BENGELLOUN SAID HE SENSED A "MORE OPEN" ATTITUDE AMONG THE PRO-ISRAELI SENATORS SUCH AS CHURCH, JAVITS AND STONE. SAUNDERS SAID THAT THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE HAD UNANIMOUSLY SUPPORTED THE PRESIDENT'S INVITATION, WHAT-

EVER THE RESULTS. AS FOR KING HASSAN'S REPEATED OFFER OF ASSISTANCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS, SAUNDERS SAID WE WOULD STAY IN TOUCH, AND SERIOUSLY TAKE THE OFFER INTO ACCOUNT WHEN WE COME TO THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM.

3. DATES FOR KING HASSAN'S VISIT - SAUNDERS SAID THAT A RECOMMENDATION WITH SPECIFIC DATES HAD BEEN MADE TO THE PRESIDENT, BUT WE DID NOT HAVE HIS DECISION YET. WE ARE HOPING THAT THE VISIT CAN BE RELATIVELY EARLY IN THE NOVEMBER 10 - LATE DECEMBER 1978 TIMEFRAME.

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4. F-5 DEPLOYMENTS - AT SAUNDERS' REQUEST, ANDERSON REVIEWED FOR BENGELLOUN THE ACTIONS HE HAD TAKEN PRIOR TO LEAVING MOROCCO ON AUGUST 11 FOR CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON. ANDERSON SAID HE HAD TALKED TO REDA GUEDIRA ON AUGUST 4, AND THAT THE LATTER HAD PROMISED TO LOOK INTO THE SITUATION, BUT HAD HAD TO LEAVE RABAT AGAIN, AND HAD NOT

GOTTEN BACK TO ANDERSON. (BENGELLOUN SAID HE HAD IMPRESSION THAT GUEDIRA'S RECENT TRAVEL TO EXPLORE SAHARAN PEACE PROPOSAL WITH ALGERIANS HAD COME TO NAUGHT.) SAUNDERS SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT TO GET A SCHEDULE FOR WITHDRAWAL OF THE F-5'S, SO WE COULD GO FORWARD WITH PROPOSAL

FOR ARMS SALES TO MOROCCO AND TELL CONGRESS THAT THE DEPLOYMENT PROBLEM WAS BEHIND US. SAUNDERS SAID HE HAD ALREADY TALKED TO A FEW MEMBERS OF CONGRESS (INCLUDING SENATOR BAYH ON AUGUST 10) BUT WAS NOT YET ABLE TO LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON SALES BECAUSE OF REPORTS WE HAVE RECEIVED OF THE CONTINUING PRESENCE OF F-5S IN THE WESTERN SAHARA. ANDERSON ADDED THAT WE ALSO NEED CLARIFICATION OF WHAT THE MOROCCANS' ARMS PRIORITIES ARE. THE KING HAD TALKED EXTENSIVELY ABOUT COBRAS, BUT

REDA GUEDIRA HAD TOLD HIM TWO WEEKS LATER THAT OV-10'S, NOT COBRAS WERE THE TOP PRIORITY. SAUNDERS ASKED BENGELLOUN TO TRY AS SOON AS HE GOT BACK TO MOROCCO TO ENSURE THAT INSTRUCTIONS ARE ISSUED THAT THE PLANES SHOULD

BE REMOVED. AN ORAL ASSURANCE TO US WOULD BE SUFFICIENT, AS LONG AS WE KNOW FOR SURE THAT THE PLANES ARE REMOVED. HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT BENGELLOUN TRY TO GET A CLEAR REQUEST FOR THE ARMS MOROCCO SEEKS. THERE MAY NOT BE ENOUGH TIME THIS YEAR FOR THE REQUEST TO BE PROCESSED THROUGH CONGRESS BUT WE WOULD CERTAINLY START IT. IT WAS PERHAPS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT TO HAVE CONGRESS LEAVE WASHINGTON FOR THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS ARE IN GOOD ORDER. AS A
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PRELUDE TO KING HASSAN'S VISIT LATER IN THE FALL.

5. U.S.-MOROCCAN RELATIONS - SAUNDERS SAID THE KING'S VISIT WOULD DRAMATIZE OUR BROADENING RELATIONS, AND BENGELLOUN SAID THE AGREEMENT WITH OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM SIGNED THIS WEEK WAS A GOOD EXAMPLE. SAUNDERS SAID WE NEED TO WORK ON THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS ASPECT OF THE KING'S VISIT, AND WE ARE ALREADY CONSIDERING JOINT STATEMENTS AND PUBLIC APPEARANCES. ANDERSON SAID THAT DURING MEETING WITH THE KING FOLLOWING SADAT VISIT, KING HAD WELCOMED IDEA OF USING THE U.S. VISIT TO PUBLICIZE INCREASINGLY WIDE SCOPE OF RELATIONS, INCLUDING SUCH AREAS AS ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL RELATIONS, ENERGY COOPERATION AND ASMAR IN ADDITION TO SHARED OBJECTIVES RE MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA. IN PREPARATION FOR KING'S VISIT, ANDERSON SUGGESTED THAT BENGELLOUN SEEK TO HAVE THE DOUBLE TAXATION TREATY RATIFIED BY MOROCCO, AND THAT WE WOULD MAKE THE SAME EFFORT WITH OUR SENATE. SAUNDERS SAID THAT HE WOULD WANT TO BE IN TOUCH WITH BENGELLOUN FREQUENTLY AS WE PREPARE FOR THE VISIT.
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APPROVED BY: IO/UNA:JFTEFFT

S/S-O:MVKENNEDY

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S E C R E T STATE 209872

EXDIS FOR AMB YOUNG FROM UNA

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 209872 ACTION RABAT INFO ALGIERS MADRID
NOUAKCHOTT PARIS DATED AUG 18:

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E.O. 11652: GDS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 aug 1978
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Reference: 78 RABAT 4873
Retention: 0
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1693070
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR BENGELLOUN'S MEETING WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY SAUNDERS, AUGUST 17
TAGS: MASS, OVIP, ENRG, PDIP, MO, SS, XF, (BENGELLOUN, ALI), (SAUNDERS, HAROLD)
To: RABAT
Type: TE
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